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Signed

Stephen Hordley

Dated

26 February 2002

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Continuation sheets of this form

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Description

19

Claim(s)

2

SK

Abstract

1

Drawing(s)

4

X4

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right
to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)Request for preliminary examination
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(Patents Form 10/77)Any other documents
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11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

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Date 26 January 2000

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Cap for container

5 The present invention relates to a cap for a container, and to a package comprising a container and a cap.

10 In the medical field, sterile fluids, such as medicaments, pharmaceuticals, sterile saline solution and so on are frequently required for the treatment of patients. Such sterile fluids are commonly supplied in bottles made of glass, which are chemically inert and highly unlikely to contaminate or otherwise adulterate the sterile fluid.

15 The bottles are normally closed by a rubber stopper inserted into the mouth of the bottle. The stopper is designed so that it can be pierced by a needle of a hypodermic syringe, an infusion spike of an infusion set, a spike of an autoinjector, or the like, to allow the contents of the bottle to be withdrawn. The stopper 20 can also be removed to allow the contents of the bottle to be poured out, or to be sucked up using a quill or straw of an autoinjector.

25 In order to hold the stopper in place, one approach has been to provide a cap made of aluminium or similar thin sheet metal which is crimped over the stopper and the upper part of the bottle. In order to gain access to the stopper, either to pierce it or remove it, the sheet metal cap is either partially or totally torn away.

30 However, packages incorporating aluminium caps have a number of disadvantages. For example, tearing the aluminium cap away can cause problems, as sharp edges are left where the cap is torn. These edges are sharp enough to puncture surgical gloves and human skin, which 35 is obviously a disadvantage in the medical field in particular, where the risk of infection must be kept to a minimum.

In addition, in many European countries, waste must